

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
Kouki FUKUI : Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH  
Serial No. NEW : Docket No. 2001\_0681A  
Filed June 1, 2001 :  
NONCOMBUSTIBLE INSULATING DUCT

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT TO REDUCE PTO FILING FEE**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**In the Claims:**

**Kindly amend claim 8 as follows.**

8. (Amended) A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 1, wherein the insulating material is noncombustible insulating fiber, such as glass wool and rock wool.

**Kindly add new claims 9-14 as follows.**

9. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 2, wherein the insulating material is noncombustible insulating fiber, such as glass wool and rock wool.

10. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 3, wherein the insulating material is noncombustible insulating fiber, such as glass wool and rock wool.

11. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 4, wherein the insulating material is noncombustible insulating fiber, such as glass wool and rock wool.

12. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 5, wherein the insulating material is noncombustible insulating fiber, such as glass wool and rock wool.

13. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 6, wherein the insulating material is noncombustible insulating fiber, such as glass wool and rock wool.

14. (New) A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 7, wherein the insulating material is noncombustible insulating fiber, such as glass wool and rock wool.


#### REMARKS

The above claim amendments are presented in order to remove multiple claim dependencies, so as to reduce the required filing fee.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Respectfully submitted,

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Version with Markings to  
Show Changes Made

5. A noncombustible insulating duct comprising a belt-like body which is formed of an insulating material, such as glass wool, and a noncombustible cloth or some other noncombustible sheet type material with which the insulating material is wrapped, and which is spirally wound, a preceding end portion of the belt-like body and a following end portion thereof being bonded together with a bonding agent in such a manner that the noncombustibility of a final product is not lost, and thereby connected together firmly by a noncombustible joint member.

6. A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 5, wherein the bonding agent is a noncombustible bonding agent.

7. A noncombustible insulating duct according to Claim 5, wherein a flange projecting from the preceding end portion of the belt-like body and that projecting from the following end portion thereof are wound in folded-back portions at edge sections of a noncombustible joint member and caulked firmly, whereby the end portions of the belt-like body are connected to each other.

8. A noncombustible insulating duct according to ~~any one~~ of Claims ~~1-7~~, wherein the insulating material is noncombustible insulating fiber, such as glass wool and rock wool.